

# LFP Times

CITY OF  
LAKE FOREST  
PARK

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## Mayor's Corner – The Economics of City Finances



Mayor Jeff Johnson

With soaring inflation and home values, I often hear from residents that the city must be flush with additional revenue due to the increased property tax collected on those ever-increasing home values. Well, nothing could be further from the truth. By state law, the city has two options every year: one, collect the same amount of property tax revenue as the previous year, regardless of home values; or realize a one percent increase in that

revenue by a vote of the council. Any increase beyond the maximum one percent set by the state requires a vote of the residents. As you can imagine, with annual inflation since the incorporation of Lake Forest Park in 1961 averaging 3.73% (source: <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/>

**historical-inflation-rates/**) and revenues increasing by a mere one percent it becomes increasingly difficult to maintain levels of service.

Every year, cities across the State of Washington struggle to keep providing consistent levels of service, let alone provide the new programs, parks and pedestrian pathways I hear are priorities for many of our residents, as well as your Mayor and Council.

The Administration and City Council have done an excellent job over the years of keeping this city financially stable while working to provide the services and amenities the community desires and deserves, considering the growing disparity between revenue and costs. We know what we want as a community, now we need to discuss how and how quickly we achieve those goals. As I work with the Council over the coming months to adopt the 2023-2024 city budget, I encourage your involvement and feedback as we look to continue moving this city forward.

—Mayor Johnson

## Property Tax 101

### Example

Imagine the City has only one parcel and one house that is brand new.

- This property is worth \$100,000. As its only property, its value is also the entire assessed value of the City. Suppose further that the levy rate in the City is \$2.00. That means this property owner must pay \$2.00 for each \$1,000 that their property is worth.

In the first year after its construction, the taxes on that home would be calculated as follows:

- Assessed value of the City in thousands (\$100) x Levy rate (2.00) = Tax bill and Year 1 levy (\$200.00)**

The only time taxes are calculated this way is for new

construction – i.e., the first year after the home is built. In every following year it works differently.

In Year 2 the City may only increase its levy by 1%. So, following our example:

- Last year's levy (\$200) + Additional 1% (\$2.00) – Tax bill and Year 2 levy (\$202.00)**

Let's assume the value of the City's one home doubled from \$100,000 in Year 1 to \$200,000 in Year 2. Its tax bill would still be

**\$202.00. No matter how much the assessed value in the City increases, its levy may increase only 1%.** So, the City adjusts the levy rate to make it fit the new assessed value:

- New levy amount  
\$202.00) + New  
assessed value in  
thousands (\$200) =  
New levy rate (1.01)**

Any new homes that might be built in Year 2 would be taxed at this new levy rate.

### Did you know:

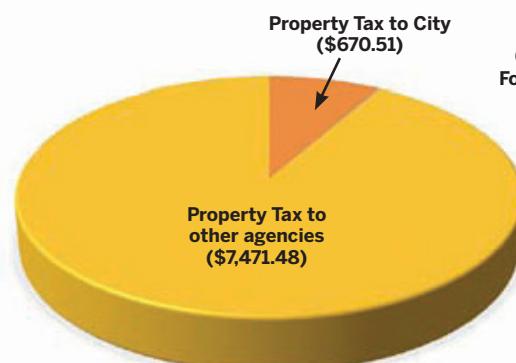
A home with an appraised value of \$800,000

2022 Taxes paid: \$8,142

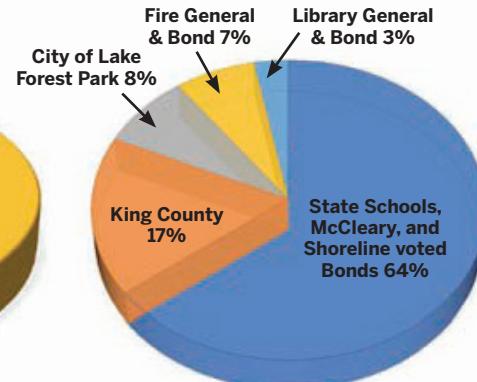
City portion: \$670.51

**No matter how much the assessed value in the City increases, its levy may increase only 1%.**

### PROPERTY TAX BREAKDOWN



### PROPERTY TAX DISTRIBUTION



## Council Corner – Wave at Your Neighbors (and Everyone!)



Photo by Camylla Battani on Unsplash

My late father was a Professor of Business and a Psychologist at the University of Washington. He spent a considerable portion of his academic time at the latter stage of his life studying what makes up and enhances a “sense of community.” He encouraged a simple way to enhance this important aspect of our lives by simply waving at neighbors and strangers alike on our

neighborhood streets.

When we drive, we are more likely to be considerate and accountable to those we know than those we don’t.

Our wonderful City of Lake Forest Park has only about 13,500 residents, yet during a typical day more than 60,000 vehicles pass through our city at least once, ostensibly growing the population of our city significantly. With so many people from surrounding communities passing through LFP, cut-through traffic has increased pressure on our neighborhood streets.

You may be surprised how waving at visitors to our city (and your neighbors as well!) as they pass through our neighborhoods fosters a sense of community and encourages responsible behavior and accountability on our roads.

—Deputy Mayor Tom French

## ID2023 – Will You Have What You Need to Travel in May 2023?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Homeland Security has extended the REAL ID enforcement deadline. Beginning May 3, 2023, every air traveler 18 years of age and older will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, state-issued enhanced driver's license, or another acceptable form of ID, like a US passport, to fly within the United States. A standard Washington state driver's license or ID card will no longer be sufficient identification.

Read more about REAL ID and your options here:

<https://www.tsa.gov/real-id>.

If you are an adult who already has a US passport, you may qualify to renew it by mail. The US Department of State website, [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov), can help you figure out whether you need to apply in person or can renew by mail.

The City of Lake Forest Park is a passport acceptance facility. Our Passport Services page

**REAL ID will affect access to places controlled by the federal government**



Airport security checkpoints



U.S. border crossings



Secure federal buildings (like military facilities)

[<https://www.cityoflfp.com/124/Passports>] has helpful information about applying for a passport, our passport office hours, making an appointment at our office, and fees.

Passport processing times are currently 8-11 weeks for routine processing and 5-7 weeks for expedited processing (additional fee) and we are booking appointments two months in advance. Don't delay—start the process now!

## Picnic in the Park is Back!

Help the City celebrate our LFP community at Picnic in the Park on Saturday, September 10, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Pfingst Animal Acres Park! Join family and friends for music, booths, kids' attractions and activities, food trucks, culvert mural painting and more! We look forward to seeing you there!



## The Rain is Here, Don't LEAF it to Chance!

City public works crews work hard to keep the drains clear, but with close to 1,800, we could use your help making sure the storm drains near your home remain clear. Please do not remove the grates from the drains as this creates a hazard and does not unclog the system. Instead, rake or blow the leaves away from the drain, but not back into the street. Help prevent minor flooding and big mud puddles by mulching the leaves (adds organic nutrients to soils); composting the leaves; or, picking up the leaves and placing them in yard waste bins. As



Storm Drain

a reminder, extra yard waste containers (one 96-gallon container + 3 paper yard waste bags) may be placed curbside for pick up each week.

**Never** try to clear a storm drain or culvert if there is moving water greater than ankle deep and always be wary of traffic when working near a roadway. Wet leaves

are surprisingly heavy, so be careful not to overexert yourself. Debris from storm drains should be placed in yard waste containers. If flooding is severe or you find evidence of dumping, please call 206-368-5440.

For more information on how you can help the Lake Forest Park environment, go to:

<https://www.cityoflfp.com/180/>.

## Your Family Emergency Plan – Taking a Step toward Emergency Preparedness

As fall and winter weather approaches and with it the potential for power outages, downed trees, flooding, and other emergencies, one thing we can do now to help prepare is to make sure we and our families know what to do in those instances.

One of the most important emergency preparedness tools every individual and family can have is a family emergency plan. Creating one is a free, relatively easy step to be ready for our next disaster.

Ready.gov ([www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)) is a great resource to use for guidelines; but, keep in mind, each family is unique in some way and your family plan will be as well.

Developing a plan can be a fun family activity. Involving children, older adults, and extended family will both

improve your plan and ensure its success. It is important that everyone knows his or her role and that critical information is shared with your family. Do you have a trusted neighbor who can provide a family meeting place? Does grandma know who that person is? If you have kids in school, who is going to be responsible for collecting

the children? Does your babysitter know how to shut off your home's utilities? When everyone has input and you talk through your plan you will find areas unique to you and your family.

The details might feel overwhelming, but don't get frustrated. Start small and build from there. Something as simple as sharing your out-of-area contact and making sure it's programmed into everyone's phone is a major step forward in developing your family emergency plan.

The Northshore Emergency Management Coalition (NEMCo) offers many classes on preparedness throughout the year. Visit <https://www.cityoflfp.com/408/Emergency-Preparedness> for more information or <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan> for a plan checklist.



Family Fun While Developing Emergency Plan

## DIRECTORY

### CITY HALL

17425 Ballinger Way NE  
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155  
M-F: 9:00am - 5:00pm  
Phone: 206-368-5440  
Fax: 206-364-6521  
Web: [www.cityoflfp.com](http://www.cityoflfp.com)

### PERMIT COUNTER

Mon-Fri: 9:00am - 12:00pm  
1:00pm - 3:00pm

### PASSPORTS

By Appointment Only -  
Schedule Online at:

<https://www.cityoflfp.com/124/Passports>

M, Th & F: 12:00pm - 4:00pm  
Sat: 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Phone: 206-957-2834

 Printed on recycled paper. Please recycle this newsletter.

### MUNICIPAL COURT

M-F: 9:00am - 5:00pm  
Phone: 206-364-7711  
Fax: 206-364-7712

### POLICE

Emergency: 911  
Non-emergency: 206-364-8216  
Domestic Violence  
Victim Advocate: 206-417-8267

### SEWER BILLING

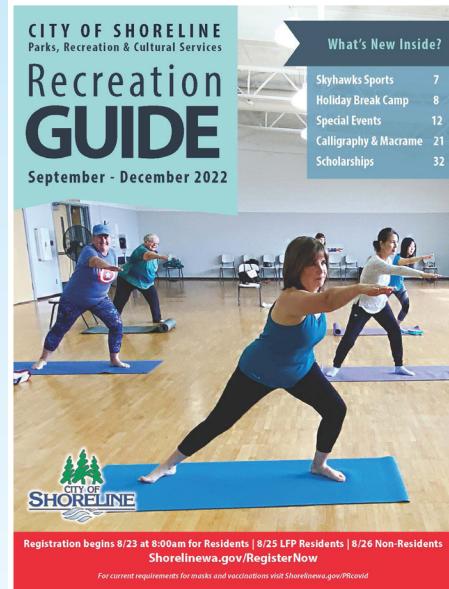
Phone: 206-368-5440 x126  
Email: [sewerbills@cityoflfp.com](mailto:sewerbills@cityoflfp.com)

**CITY HALL  
IS OPEN  
TO THE PUBLIC!**



City of Lake Forest Park  
17425 Ballinger Way NE  
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155

## Lake Forest Park Recreation Opportunities with the City of Shoreline



**CITY OF SHORELINE**  
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

**Recreation GUIDE**

September - December 2022

**What's New Inside?**

Skyhawks Sports	7
Holiday Break Camp	8
Special Events	12
Calligraphy & Macrame	21
Scholarships	32

Registration begins 8/23 at 8:00am for Residents | 8/25 LFP Residents | 8/26 Non-Residents  
[ShorelineWA.gov/RegisterNow](http://ShorelineWA.gov/RegisterNow)

For current requirements for masks and vaccinations visit [ShorelineWA.gov/PRCovid](http://ShorelineWA.gov/PRCovid)

If you live in Lake Forest Park and are interested in recreation, you can take advantage of recreation programs offered through the City of Shoreline. Lake Forest Park residents are eligible for a 24-hour early registration period prior to the start of each season's programs plus an 8% discount on all program fees (not rentals) throughout the entire year! The fall early registration date has passed, but discounts still apply! To receive notices of the early registration dates, sign up for reminders through the City's website, Facebook and Twitter or keep watch on the City of Shoreline's recreation webpage: <https://www.shorelinewa.gov/government/departments/parks-recreation-cultural-services/recreation-programs>.

The City offers scholarship reimbursements for eligible youth and specialized recreation participants who reside in the City and are registered for and attend cultural, recreation, or aquatic programs and camps. For more information, go to our webpage, <https://www.cityoflfp.com/396/>, or call City Hall, 206-368-5440.

## City Council Meetings

### City Council Regular Business Meetings

2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.

### City Council Work Session Meetings

2nd Thursday, 6:00 p.m.

### City Council Committee of the Whole Meetings

Monday before the 4th Thurs., 6:00 p.m.

### City Council Budget & Finance Committee Meetings

3rd Thursday, 6:00 p.m.

Please check our calendar online for the most current meeting updates.

[www.cityoflfp.com](http://www.cityoflfp.com)

